Appl. No.

:

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REMARKS

Claims 2-21 are currently pending. The present amendments place the pending claims in

condition for allowance and do not raise any new issues.

The Office Action of August 1, 2006 stated that Claim 2, and claims that depended from

Claim 2 (Claims 3-7), would be allowable if rewritten to include the elements of the independent

claim. Accordingly, Claim 2 has been amended by including the elements of prior Claim 1. In

addition, Claims 8-21 have also been amended to depend from Claim 2 and should therefore be

allowable as well. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, for

example, in the original text of the currently amended claims, Claim 1, Example 1, paragraphs

0053-0066, FIGs. 1-4 and the discussion of the figures. Applicants note that the dependent

claims recite additional elements which further distinguish them over the cited art. While

Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the cited art and the

state of the art at the time of filing of the application, Applicants do appreciate the Examiner's

comments regarding alternative ways of demonstrating the state of the art.

In the interest of accelerating the prosecution of the current case, Claim 1 has been

cancelled. This is not a surrender of subject matter and Applicants reserve the right to pursue the

cancelled claim and subject matter at a later point.

Regarding the comment on the top of page 8 of the Office Action, Applicants note that

there is no pending rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The previous rejection

was withdrawn in light of the Applicants' comments (Response of May 1, 2006). As a result,

Claim 2 is patentable as currently presented, as are the claims that depend therefrom (Claims 3-

21).

Applicants submit that the present claim amendments place the application in condition

for allowance. If, however, some issue remains, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone

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the undersigned in order to resolve such issue promptly. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11/1/06

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